

From: Matt Gainer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

First, even as I type this e-mail in Microsoft Entourage I want to thank you for pursuing an aggressive action against the Microsoft corporation. There is no disputing the quality of Microsoft's products, and the extent that we have come to depend on them; but how Microsoft positioned itself as a leader is definitely worthy of debate, and hopefully critical action as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the following brief story with you:

In 1997 I finished Graduate school in Los Angeles and accepted my first part time teaching job at a small, private two-year catholic college located in Palos Verdes, California.

I was the first lecturer hired to teach Digital Imaging in the school's new computer lab. From what I understand, the main computer lab, along with the college's central server were at least partially (perhaps completely) funded by Microsoft...with the agreement that non-microsoft software was not allowed on any of the machines if a microsoft brand software existed for a particular task. For instance, I was not allowed to install netscape on any of the machines since Internet Explorer could perform the same tasks. Other teachers complained that they were also forced to use microsoft products when there were better alternatives available. The issue was not money...since some of the software, like netscape, were available as free downloads. The reason that we were not allowed to use non microsoft product to teach with was because microsoft had defined the parameters of what could be done in the lab when they donated the equipment.

I'm not sure if the agreement with microsoft was legal or not, but it made for an extremely frustrating teaching experience, and severely limited the ways in which we could use the computers in our lab.

Thanks for listening,

Matt

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